



Enhancing Home-based Long-Term Care for High Risk Frail Veterans: A Tailored Caregiver Training Intervention



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Merit Review Entry Program Award Data

- **Focus:** Frail veterans and caregiver training
- **Dates:** October, 2006 – September, 2009
- **Mentors:**
 - Morris Weinberger, PhD
 - Eugene Z. Oddone, MD, MHSc
 - Elizabeth C. Clipp, PhD, RN

Risks for Frail Veterans and Caregivers (CG)

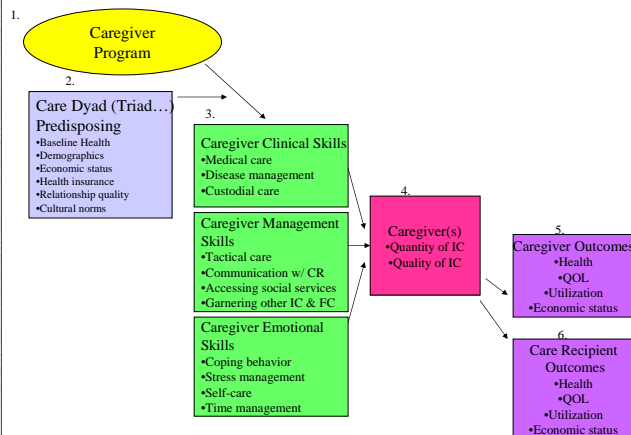
- In 2000, the Millenium Health Care Act expanded coverage of long-term care (LTC)
- Since then, the number of VA LTC patients rose almost **25 %**, with a shift from institutional LTC to home health care (HHC).
- Informal care from family or friends can delay patient nursing home (NH) entry but may be harmful to CG health
- Multi-component CG interventions for dementia patients have improved CG outcomes and delayed patient NH entry.
- However, less than **50%** of informal caregivers receive training in how to care for frail patients.
- Thus, it is critical to identify strategies that enhance the skills of CGs of frail veterans receiving HHC.

Pilot Work to Date

FUNDING: MREP and Duke School of Nursing,
8/2005-8/1/2007, **PI:** Van Houtven

CO-PI'S: Weinberger, Oddone, Clipp

Study 1: Conceptual Model of Informal Caregiver Programs & Caregiver and Care Recipient Outcomes



Study 2: Does Home Health Care Reduce Subsequent VA And Medicare Health Care Utilization For Veterans?

DESIGN AND PARTICIPANTS : Retrospective study of VA home health users in 2002 and age and 2:1 sample of age and race-based controls. Propensity score analysis for treatment effects

FINDINGS: VA HHC users have a higher absolute probability of receiving outpatient care (3 %), inpatient care (12 %), and nursing home care (6 %).

Study 3: Assessing Perceived need for and barriers to caregiver training

DESIGN AND PARTICIPANTS:

Mail Survey Study of all
Durham VA patients referred to
H/HHA skilled home health, or
HBPC.

PROGRESS: Patient survey in the
field, 55 returned (of 220).
Caregiver survey being fielded
5/2007.



Study 4: Acceptability and Feasibility of Tailored CG Training Intervention

DESIGN & PARTICIPANTS:

Survey volunteers, focus group
sessions on proposed training
modules; home visits to shadow
providers

PROGRESS: Drafting IRB



Manuscripts During MREP Period

Van Houtven, C. H., A. S. Jeffreys, C. J. Coffman. 2006. "Does Home Health Care Reduce Subsequent VA And Medicare Health Care Utilization For Veterans? ", presented at SEHESG Conference, Miami, Florida, Oct. 6. To submit to *Medical Care* June, 2007

Van Houtven, C. H. Conceptual Model of Informal Caregiver Programs and Caregiver and Care Recipient Outcomes, to submit to *Milbank Quarterly*, June, 2007